

Tech expo

This year's annual technology expo takes place July 18 at the Rheinlander from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 20 companies will be demonstrating the latest in information technology.

Admission is free and all military and contractor personnel are invited to attend. Complimentary refreshments and free giveaways will be available.

Track and field

The U.S. Forces Europe Track and Field Championships are coming to Baumholder's Minnick Field Aug. 3. Each competitor will be allowed to enter in a total of three individual and two relay events. For more information, call Emma Robinson at Baumholder's Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176 or civ (06783)9177.

Amusement Parks

Youth Services is going to several amusement parks this summer. On July 20 they head to EuropaPark, on Aug. 10 they check out Phantasialand and on Sept. 7 they visit Warner Brothers Studios. There are some age restrictions and costs so call your local youth center for more information.

3-on-3 tournament

BOSS presents the ???GOT GAME??? 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Aug. 10 at the Hall of Champions. Each team can have 3 players and one substitute. Contestants must be 16 years old to play. Boys and girls are welcome and the tournament is open to all military ID card holders. The cost is \$40 per team. Sign up and pay by Aug. 6 to ensure a place in the tournament. There will be a max of 50 teams. For more

Post notes

information call mil 485-6059.

Summer golf

The Rolling Hills Golf Course Summer Open is scheduled for July 20. Tee off is at 9 a.m. Play will be stroke format. Sign up in the ProShop or call mil 485-7299 for more information.

Camp in Garmisch

Youth Services is going camping in Garmisch Aug 16-18. The cost is \$60 and only 16 spaces are available. Children who are 13-18 years old and want to enjoy a week-end of camping and whitewater rafting must sign up by Aug. 2. For more information contact your local youth center

Indoor pool

The indoor swimming pool is not operating under summer hours. We are open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays the hours are noon – 5 p.m. Fridays are family nights from 4 to 7 p.m. and costs only \$1 per person to get in. For more information call mil 485-6575.

Credit union closure

All Service Credit Union branch offices will be closed on the Fourth of July, in observance of Independence Day. All Service Credit Union branch offices will resume normal hours of operation July 5.

Job opening

There is an immediate full-time job opening at Baumholder's

TRICARE Service Center for a TRICARE Medical Service Coordinator to provide customer service and operational support within the TRICARE service center setting. The job entails providing information and support to individuals eligible for TRICARE benefits. Typical duties will include, registering enrollees, assigning primary care managers, completing and entering TRICARE enrollment and disenrollment forms and more.

Qualifications include three years cumulative experience in the following areas:

- Two years experience in U.S. military health care delivery system or civilian managed care medical/administrative environment
- Two years experience in a medical or clinical environment
- One year experience with the Composite Health Care System (CHCS) or other Civilian Health care Computer System
- Fluency in English
- Must be eligible for Status of Forces Agreement coverage.

For consideration, fax cover letter and resume to fax (49) 631-357-3199, or e-mail the cover letter and resume to robin.m.talley@saic.com. Army Emergency Relief

The annual Army Emergency Relief fund raising campaign closed May 31. More than \$43,000 was raised by the Baumholder military community. That is almost double the contributions received last year. Almost every unit in Baumholder contributed to the campaign this year.

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AER assistance

AER works to assist soldiers, retirees, and family members around the world in times of financial need. Last year AER assisted more than 57,000 soldiers worldwide with almost \$39 million in emergency assistance. In the Baumholder community 299 soldiers and family members were helped with approximately \$284,173 in assistance. The majority of assistance was for car repairs and emergency travel expenses. AER also offers scholarship programs to spouses and dependents of active duty service members attending post-second-

ary, undergraduate educational institutions. In addition to providing emergency assistance, AER works closely with the Financial Readiness Program to provide soldiers and family members with basic financial information and education.

Army Community Service thanks all of those who contributed and especially to all of the soldiers who worked to make this year's campaign a success.

For more information on AER programs or to schedule a unit briefing, call Christy Doboszinski at Baumholder Army Community Service, mil 485-8188.

Try volunteering

Are you new to Baumholder and want to meet new people? Try volunteering. The Baumholder community offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for people who wish to donate their time and assistance. The following are just a few agencies looking for volunteers.

Supervisor needed

Army Community Service is looking for someone to fill the position of volunteer supervisor and accreditation assistant. ACS also provides help with child care costs for its volunteers. Call ACS at mil 485-8188 for details.

Master trainers

Army Family Team Building is always looking for master trainers. They can also help with child care costs. Call AFTB at mil 485-8542 for more information.

ACS announces AFAP results

Nine issues emerged out of the Feb. 6, Baumholder Army Family Action Plan Conference and the local steering committee decided that five of these issues were to be forwarded to the 104th Area Support Group for inclusion in their AFAP conference.

Of the nine issues listed below, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 were forwarded to the 104th ASG. Issues 1 and 4 were combined to create one issue.

1. A need for a multifunctional indoor recreational area
2. Provide adequate insurance options for OCONUS moves
3. Issuance of AFN Decoders for active duty personnel
4. Provide a facility for youth activities
5. Provide a standardized and operational Family Assistance Center
6. Bonuses for indefinite re-enlistments
7. Selecting Family Readiness

FRG volunteers

Family readiness groups throughout the community are looking for volunteers to help support unit events and programs. Many of these positions offer volunteers the experience of administrative, managerial, and other skills that look great on a resume. Call your family readiness group leader to find out what is available in your readiness group.

Financial help

The finance office is looking for volunteers to help in their offices with travel, budget and other financial matters. Call Diana Ruiz at mil 485-6824.

Red Cross

The American Red Cross is looking for creative and highly motivated people to help support their community programs and events. The Red Cross can help volunteers with child care costs.

For more information about volunteering call April Barnett, installation volunteer coordinator, at mil 485-6565 or civ 06783-66565.

Youth aid

Child and Youth Services are always looking for volunteers to help community youth in a wide variety of activities. Call Mike Ritchey at mil 485-6968 to find out how you can help the youth in the community.

Lifeguards needed

The Community Recreation Division is looking for volunteers who are interested in becoming certified lifeguards or who are certified lifeguards. Call Denise Turnipseed at mil 485-6965 for details.

Liaisons

8. Improving the standards for OCONUS preventive dental care

9. Provide a mental health provider for Baumholder family members.

The 104th ASG held its conference on March 7 and Baumholder's issues 1 and 7 were deemed unattainable at the ASG level and forwarded to U.S. Army Europe. Issue 3 was submitted as an alternate issue. USAREUR held their conference on May 20 and unfortunately none of Baumholder's issues were forwarded on from USAREUR to the Department of the Army. However, the issues are being evaluated and information regarding their status will be provided later in the year.

A special thank-you goes to all who participated in the 2002 conference. Baumholder is now getting ready for the 2003 conference and anyone interested in participating in this conference should call ACS at mil 485-8188.

Spotlight on workforce

Health advisor enjoys job diversity

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Gabi Martini says one of the things she enjoys most about her job as Baumholder's health benefits advisor is its diversity. "Every day there's something new. Yes, I have a few local national colleagues that I've known for some time but it's nice meeting new people like the commanders who come and go, or just meeting new customers every day."

Martini also serves as the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator and often deals with retirees. "That is really nice. I really like attending the retiree information evenings that we have. Those things I like, really," she said.

Having worked as the health benefits advisor for about 14 years, Martini has extensive knowledge of subjects like TRICARE policies, how enrollment works, what benefits are available such as transitional or VA benefits. "I'm always attend the TRICARE Europe Conference, which is held every two years for a week, to get all the facts necessary to give out only accurate information to our patients."

Recently she implemented and now manages the TRICARE preferred provider network. If patients cannot be seen at the clinic by an American doctor and must be treated by a German doctor, Martini is a name that patients need to remember. Martini processes active duty claims when a military or family member is treated off post by a local doctor. "I get the bills and I send them off for payment." She also gets the bills when funds are missing and she has to research and rectify the claim.

"Sometimes it involves a little research, especially in cases when reservists come here and have an emergency and they go to a German hospital. If we're not exactly sure who they belong to and their DEERS is not updated, it's hard for us to know where to send the bill for payment. It takes a little bit longer than the other claims but other than that, it works."

Her job reaches all the way to the states and throughout Europe when it comes to coordination. "We have civilians who have moved from Baumholder to Italy, for example, from whom I get information about an unpaid bill. I contact my colleagues in Italy, or wherever they are and get further details. I gather all the information I can and inform

our providers how they can get their bills paid."

In that light, Martini also wears the debt collection assistance officer's hat and is the point of contact for any problems related to unpaid medical bills, even from the states. Getting the job done, though, often involves coming in after work or evenings to make phone calls to the states because of the time difference.

Martini says customer satisfaction is her goal because customer satisfaction equals an assure that patients are getting the best quality of care they need through host nation providers, if the military cannot provide it. "Keeping a good relationship with our host nation providers is also critical. We must assure prompt processing of bills so that providers receive payment in a timely manner for patients they see under the TRICARE system or for active duty soldiers," she said.

Before joining the Army work force Martini worked as a dental assistant in the town of Baumholder. When her boss died she lost her job so she headed to the German unemployment office. She was eventually placed in Baumholder's property book office for a few months and then she was hired by the POL station.

"I love my job, all of it."

While working with the property book office, the German unemployment office, not the U.S. Army, actually paid her salary. She only stayed with POL about four or five weeks until she got her first job in the health clinic as a forms and pubs clerk. After pushing administrative paperwork for about a year, she landed her current job. "I love my job, all of it," she said.

But Martini's time is not always taken up by following up on unpaid medical bills or processing TRICARE claims. As much as she may like her job she actually has a life and enjoys playing the flute and piccolo with the Musikverein



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Gabi Martini

Germania from Ruschberg, a band from her hometown. About 54 active musicians make up the band. Most are from Ruschberg. The town itself has a population of about 900.

"During the summer we have a big concert on Easter Sunday. That is our main project for the year," she said. Throughout the year the group travels to different places like the recent Rheinland-Pfalz days in Zweibrücken. Most recently they performed in a small town near Heidelberg where they played there for a couple of hours and then enjoyed a boat ride on the Neckar River. She's been with the group for 25 years and she says that, "The trip to Heidelberg was an exception. Usually we just perform here in the local area. We go to places like the music fest in Freisen or Birkenfeld, just here in the local area."

Like most modern day Germans, she was first exposed to the English language while in school. "I learned English in school but my parents always rented apartments to Americans so I had a good share of exposure to the language. I had a good American friend once, she was my age so I learned a lot from her. But most of it I learned when I started working at the clinic and I'm still learning," she said.

Martini's hometown of Ruschberg is about 10 minutes from Baumholder. "I grew up there, got married there and got separated there," Martini said. She has two children, a 12-year-old son, Matthias; and a 9-year-old daughter, Marina. "I have a dog and a cat," she added. "They are also part of my family!"

POV shipping

All you need to know before you go

You've been in Germany for several weeks and although walking and taking public transportation has its charms, you are ready to start driving. The big day is finally here as your vehicle has arrived in Baumholder. Armed with your U.S. Army Europe driver's license, you head down to the vehicle processing center to get your vehicle and hit the Autobahn.

At the VPC, you will be met by the contractor's agent who shipped your POV. You and the contractor's agent will conduct a joint inspection of the POV to note any loss or damage which occurred during shipment. Be careful and thorough. Any loss or damage not noted during the joint inspection will require written notification and explanation to the contractor why the damages were not noted at time of pick-up. Claims service policy provides that obvious external damage that is not listed on your vehicle shipping document is not payable.

Persons picking up their vehicle at the VPC have several responsibilities. Some of the most important include carefully reading the vehicle claims instructions and completely listing any loss or damage to the vehicle.

Do not rely on the contractor's agent that shipped your vehicle to list loss or damage for you. Make

sure you have listed all losses, damages, or destruction to your vehicle before you leave the VPC.

Remember to inventory items that were shipped in the vehicle, such as baby car seat or tools. Check the vehicle, inside and outside, top to bottom, for any shipping damage.

If there is damage, it is recommended that you first attempt to settle your claim directly with the contractor, either by accepting an on-site settlement from the contractor's agent or by sending the estimate of repair directly to the contractor, American Auto Logistics. The contractor normally settles your claim within 45 days from date of receipt of your claim. If you do not feel that the offer made by the contractor's agent is a good settlement, then you may file a claim with the military claims office.

If you discover damage after you leave the VPC, you must immediately notify the claims office and the contractor that shipped your vehicle in writing. Be sure to describe in detail the damage discovered and why it was not discovered during the inspection at the VPC.

If you have any questions pertaining to claims policies, contact the claims office at the Baumholder Legal Center, at mil 485-6507 or civ (06783) 6-6507.

Legal notes

Pfc. Justin B. Williamson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4-27 Field Artillery, was found guilty by a Summary Court-Martial at Baumholder, Germany on June 14 of one count of absent without leave, four counts of failure to report, three counts of wrongful use of controlled substances, and one count of incapacitation in the performance of duties due to being intoxicated. He received a sentence of reduction to private and forfeiture of \$737.

Sgt. James E. Norris, Alpha Battery, 1-94 Field Artillery, was tried by a Summary Court-Martial at Strassburg Kaserne on June 14. He

was found guilty on one count of wrongful use of a controlled substance, marijuana. He received a sentence of reduction to specialist and restriction for 30 days.

Pvt. Bryan J. Minturn, Bravo Company, 2-6 Infantry, was tried by a Summary Court-Martial at Baumholder June 25 and was found guilty on one count of wrongful use of a controlled substance, marijuana.

He received a sentence of forfeiture of \$737 and confinement for 21 days. Minturn served his sentence at the Mannheim Confinement Facility.

Buchs takes command of BSB

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Command of Baumholder's 222nd Base Support Battalion changed hands June 19 when Lt. Col. Todd Buchs assumed command from Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, who leaves Baumholder for his new assignment with the G-3 staff at 5th Corps Headquarters in Heidelberg.

In his final speech to the Baumholder community Wagenaar said that many people have asked him what it's like commanding a BSB? "How can you deal with that stuff day in and day out?" Wagenaar said these were hard questions to answer but he summed it up by saying, "You really don't get bogged down by the negative stuff. It sure bothers you, it has to, you need it to. But with one phone call you can solve the very one problem that has become the significant issue in someone's life. That is why this has been the most rewarding and fulfilling job I've ever

had."

Buchs comes to Baumholder from an assignment with the Program, Analysis, and Evaluation Directorate in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff.

In his speech, Buchs recognized the numerous military commanders and German dignitaries who attended the change of command ceremony. "Your presence is a powerful symbol of the excellent relations that exists here in the Baumholder community," he said.

Buchs then addressed the participants on the parade field. "To the soldiers, firefighters, and our German military partners out on the parade field today representing the Baumholder community, my many thanks go out to you today for your excellent appearance and symbolic presence.

"And the 76th Army band from Heidelberg, your presence brings special meaning to today's ceremony," said Buchs.

Since the 222nd BSB's middle name is "support," Wagenaar

elected to break from tradition and include a formation of fire fighters on the parade field alongside the American and German soldiers. Their fire response vehicles were added to the formation in case they needed to respond to an alarm.

Buchs also had special praise for the outgoing commander, Wagenaar and his wife Beth. "You've made our transition effortless and have clearly handed over the keys to a first rate battalion.

"I would like to say that Rene and I feel extremely privileged to be back in Germany and to be part of this much talked about and well respected Baumholder community," said Buchs.

In closing Buchs said he looks forward to commanding the 222nd BSB and joining the championship team.

"Most of all, I look forward to serving with all of you and providing exceptional service for everyone living and working in the Baumholder military community," he said.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Todd Buchs, left, accepts the 222nd Base Support Battalion colors from Col. George A. Latham II, 104th Area Support Group commander.

75 of 475 soldiers earn elusive EIB

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Some 475 soldiers worked their way through 33 testing stations at Conquerer's Park recently in pursuit of the ultimate mark of a true infantryman, the coveted Expert Infantry Badge, better known as the EIB. Traditionally only about 17 percent of those who test earn the privilege to wear the EIB. When it was all over the only thing remaining at Conquerer's Park amidst the empty testing stations and the dusty

trails connecting them were the dashed hopes of many who busted the test by receiving three no-goes.

"The EIB means a lot to a soldier, especially an infantry soldier, an 18 series or an 11 series soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Harold Marshal, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-6 Infantry S-3 NCOIC and course construction honcho for this year's EIB testing. "That's the mark of a true infantryman right there, the EIB. Once a soldier goes into basic training, once he starts training up, he looks at that blue rifle and he's like, hey, I want that thing. It means

excellence," said Marshal.

What the EIB also symbolizes is that a soldier is proficient in all the basic tasks that are needed to accomplish his mission and to help the commander accomplish his mission on today's battlefield.

Before a soldier can become eligible to test for his EIB, there is a battery of prerequisites that must be met. He must qualify expert with the M-16/M-4 Carbine within 12 months, 11 Charlie series soldiers must score expert on the gunner's exam day and night, day and night land navigation with a compass and a Position Lightweight Global (positioning system) Receiver, or PLGR, must be passed within six months of testing and a 12 mile tactical foot march must be completed in three hours within 90 days of testing.

Soldiers who qualify as EIB candidates are then run through a battery of tasks that cover the entire spectrum of skills and knowledge required by an infantryman on the battlefield.

Tasks include everything from hand grenade tossing and first aid to assembling and firing a 50 caliber machine gun. Soldiers are even tested on their ability to call for fire, a task that is normally conducted by those more senior in rank. "We're testing the privates and specialists on this task because they are the ones who will most likely be on point and will need the skills to relay a call for fire. They need these skills as much as their superiors," said Marshal.

Marshal imparted some personal insight of when he earned his EIB. "When I got my EIB straight out of

basic, I had a lot of Vietnam vets dead on me getting my EIB, and I got it. Their saying was, 'More sweat in training, less bloodshed in combat.'

"And it's true. You come out here, you bust your butt, you train up, you focus on what you're doing, you go get it, and hey, you're gonna be good to go out there, because that means you know your task and your buddy knows his task. So when you're out there on that battlefield, you don't have to worry about the man to your left and right, because you know what their doing," said Marshal.

Other skills covered by EIB testing include such things as locating a point on a map, estimating range, hand and arm signals, camouflage, mine assembly, communications and SALUTE, an information gathering process essential to a commander's decision making process.

At the EIB graduation ceremony, Maj. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander, noted that 474 soldiers started down the EIB gauntlet. "The pin on rate," he explained, "is only about 17 or 18 percent. So we know that when we embark upon one of these exercises that we're going to have a lot of soldiers that are not going to meet the standard." Only 75 soldiers earned their EIB. Of those 75 who earned their EIB, 27 were members of Task Force Santa Fe, the National Guard unit currently conducting force protection operations at Baumholder.

For those who earn their EIB without any errors or, "no-go free," there is the additional distinction of being a True Blue Soldier. This means they completed all tasks the first time around with no mistakes. Only 11 attained this honor. What's more unique is that a pair of twins attained this special honor. Spec. Curtis Lee Lucero, Bravo 1-6 Infantry and Spec. Calvin Leon Lucero, Alpha, 2-6 Infantry sailed through EIB testing as True Blue Soldiers.

"Now that is an accomplishment," said Sanchez. "First of all when you think about the pass rate of 17 percent and then you look at how many achieved True Blue Soldier status, that is really impressive. So all 11 of you true blue soldiers, I personally am very proud of you and I know the rest of your leadership is also about as proud as they can be of what you have accomplished," said Sanchez.

"What do we think of when we think of an expert infantryman or an expert medic? The words that come

to mind would run something like distinction, expert in our fundamental war fighting skills, a professional, dedication to duty, leadership under fire, courage and probably we would think of sacrifice," said Sanchez.

"Probably the most important aspect of achieving this expert competency is the direct impact that this will have on our mission accomplishment both during peacetime and in war.

"History has proven to us over and over again that it is small unit actions that lead to victory or defeat on the battlefield. Those small unit actions are inevitably and ultimately executed by properly trained, motivated young soldiers who are experts in their basic skills, who are dedicated to mission accomplishment, who are performing under tremendous stress and under fire. It is their sacrifices that lead to the defeat of the enemy and it is their individual courage and action that leads to that tactical victory, that leads to operational impact and eventually to strategic success," said Sanchez.

He then challenged each recipient to sustain the proficiency that they demonstrated in earning the expert infantryman's badge or the expert field medical badge. "I challenge you to take that commitment, that attention to detail, that perseverance, that willingness to sacrifice and apply it to every task you're assigned.

"But I think the most important challenge that I'm going to leave with you is to share your expertise and lead your subordinates, continue to set the example for your fellow soldiers to get them to perform at the same levels of proficiency that you have attained. Ultimately, that is what being leaders is all about, that is what being professional soldiers is all about," said Sanchez.

In addition to the distinction draped over a soldier who wears an EIB, today's soldier has an added incentive to earn his EIB. "If you are an E-6 and you want to make E-7, or an E-7 who wants to make E-8, nowadays you cannot make E-8 or sergeant major without having an EIB," said Marshal.

So for promotion in today's Army, there is still the incentive to earn an EIB, even if a soldier has received a Combat Infantry Badge as a result of being in actual combat or being assigned to a unit while it was in combat.

"If you wanna move up, you gotta have it," said Marshal.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A soldier practices with an AT-4 before stepping up to the ready line to test his proficiency on the weapon.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

The hand grenade toss is one of the many basic tasks required of a soldier in his quest for the coveted EIB.